

# America Blamed By Italy's Extremists

By Marquis Childs

ROME. — United States Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce, almost from the first day of her arrival here a year ago, has been the target of the Communist apparatus with its numerous and skillful propaganda organs. It has been a merciless, unrelenting attack carried on in newspapers and in wall posters, distorting and maligning everything that she has said and done. Palmiro Togliatti, Moscow-trained boss of the Communist Party, said on the floor of the Parliament that she had the "evil eye," putting a curse on everything she came near.



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Disagreeable as it is from day to day and week to week, the Communist drum fire can be discounted and maybe even ignored. But the subtle undercover opposition of the industrialists is something else again. It is part of the dubious political balance on which the government of Prime Minister Mario Scelba is uncertainly poised.

Ambassador Luce tells the government and the industrialists that she cannot approve placing contracts in plants where the unions have a Communist majority. She must try to place the work in factories dominated by non-Communist unions. In some categories of work that is difficult or impossible.

But, even so, Mrs. Luce points out that she could never defend before a committee of Congress the awarding of a contract for military work in which Communist shop stewards have so much authority, with access to all information.

THE industrialists reply that most Communist workers are not real Communists, anyway. Furthermore, they argue that the effort to exclude big plants with Communist unions is bound to create more unemployment, and unemployment makes real Communists.

Ambassador Luce is also trying to persuade the Scelba government to enforce another provision of the Offshore Aid Act which provides that the benefits of American spending be shared as widely as possible through every segment of the economy.

Unfortunately, very few specific conditions were laid down in connection with the spending of the nearly \$1 billion dollars.

As a result it was almost inevitable that the rich got richer and if the poor didn't get poorer at least their position was little improved. Since the rich have up until now paid almost no taxes it has meant the persistence of the basic injustice of a more or less feudal system in the midst of an advanced technology.

It goes without saying that this has meant a heaven-sent opportunity for the Communists.

Some of these things Mrs. Luce said privately when she visited America in January. What she was trying to do was to alert people back home to the dangers here. Some of her critics have said that this was not the function of an Ambassador. But it did bring an awareness of the situation in Italy whereas the conflicts in France that have now come to the surface were apparently never reported to Washington.

THE Ambassador's remarks, as printed in garbled form here, have also increased the tension between the embassy and the government. There is even a growing tendency to blame America—America is blamed for everything—for Italy's communism. Former Premier Alcide de Gasperi, who is considered the real power behind the present government, recently suggested in an article that the "climate of the Roosevelt Administration" at the end of the war made it possible for Communists to gain power in Italy under American occupying authorities.

Others go further and accuse Americans of deliberately putting Communists in important offices. This charge is made against Allen Dulles, now head of the Central Intelligence Agency and the wartime director in Switzerland of the Office of Strategic Services, who is accused of having made a deal with the Germans under which in most of Italy Communists active in the resistance movement were given offices from which they have never been dislodged.

This may be merely a symptom of the need to find a scapegoat for so much that is wrong. Undeniably, the balance is delicate. It is upset from either the extreme left or the extreme right, this ancient land that has suffered so much will be in for more trouble—and serious trouble.

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